

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed April 3, 2008. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-20 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-8, 10-17 and 19-20 were rejected and Claims 9 and 18 were objected to. Claims 1, 10, and 19 have been amended to further define various features of Applicant's invention. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Priority

Applicant appreciates Examiner's acknowledgement of Applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Germany August 31, 2001 and the PCT Office August 29, 2002. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.55, Applicants intend to submit certified copies of the aforementioned priority applications upon receipt of favorable action in the present application and prior to payment of any issue fees.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 19-20 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite and failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant amends Claim 19 to overcome these rejections and respectfully request full allowance of Claims 19 and 20 as amended.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9 and 18-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant amends Claims 1 and 10 incorporating the elements of allowable Claims 9 and 18, respectively as well as intermediate claims 8 and 17, respectively.

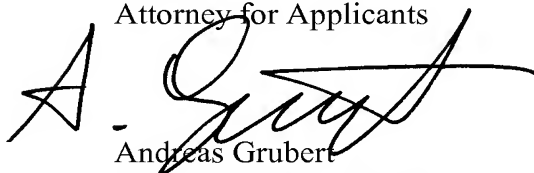
CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the remarks set forth above. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims.

Applicant believes there are no fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicant's attorney at 512.322.2545.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: May 22, 2008

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